

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Experimental Product
DATE: June 13, 2003***

MULTI-FORMAT FORECAST INFORMATION WEB PAGE

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

Advances in computer capabilities and web services technologies, as well as scientific advances in NWS software, have afforded the National Weather Service an opportunity to create customer-based products and services. Information dissemination via the world wide web (www) allows customers to obtain higher resolution forecast information in a variety of formats on demand.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

This experimental version of an interactive forecast information web page is being made available to:

- a. Allow users to access forecast information that is always current with higher resolution than is possible in traditional text forecast products which are averaged over time and space.
- b. Allow customers to view forecast information retrieved directly from locally prepared forecast grids in a variety of formats, including icons, text, tabular and graphic.
- c. Receive feedback from those users on potential refinements to interactive information retrieval.

3. Audience:

The current audience for the forecast information web page consists of emergency management partners and the general public.

4. Presentation Format:

The web grid point forecasts are presented for display as HTML in text, hourly meteogram, and digital/tabular format. The forecasts can viewed using a web browser, and then selected on a map location or by entering specified latitude and longitude coordinates. A sample of this web page can be found at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/>.

5. Feedback Method:

We are always seeking to improve our products based on user feedback. Therefore, users of this experimental product are asked to complete the survey located <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/survey/>. Comments will be compiled through September 30, 2003 and evaluated by the appropriate NWS program managers.

Technical questions may be addressed via e-mail to: mark.mitchell@noaa.gov.

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The grid point forecasts can be viewed in text, hourly meteogram, and digital/tabular format. This data is extracted from the Graphical Forecast Editor (GFE) program on a routine basis, pre-processed, and then sent to the NWS Central Region Web Server. This data is available at a spatial resolution of 5 kilometers. The data fields include, surface temperature, dewpoint, wind speed and direction, weather, sky cover, and probability of precipitation. The text forecasts are available out to 7 days, the meteograms out to 48 hours, and the digital/tabular forecasts out 120 hours.

2. **Availability:**

Updates to the grid point forecasts are made once an hour from the existing GFE database. These updates are generally available at quarter past every hour.

3. **Additional Information:**

The interactive forecast information display web page is being tested at all 38 Weather Forecast Offices, NWS Central Region with the goal of experimental implementation across the NWS Central Region by September 1, 2003.